

**In the Claims**

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set. Claim 4 has been amended.

1. (Previously Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(a) nucleic acid molecules which hybridize under stringent conditions to a molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:1 and which code for a human *vasa* polypeptide, wherein the stringent conditions are: (1) hybridization at 65°C in hybridization buffer (3.5 x SSC, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% polyvinyl pyrrolidone, 0.02% Bovine Serum Albumin, 2.5mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>(pH7), 0.5% SDS, 2mM EDTA), wherein SSC is 0.15M sodium chloride/0.015M sodium citrate, pH7; SDS is sodium dodecyl sulphate; and EDTA is ethylenediaminetetracetic acid, and (2) washing in 2 x SSC at room temperature and washing in 0.1 x SSC/0.1 SDS at 68°C,

(b) nucleic acid molecules that differ from the nucleic acid molecules of (a) in codon sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, or

(c) full-length complements of (a) or (b).

2. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:1.

3. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule consists of the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:15 or a fragment thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of

(a) fragments consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:1, between 8 and 2223 nucleotides in length,

(b) full-length complements of (a),

provided that a fragment of (a) excludes (1) nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOs:16-22 or 31-47

~~(1) sequences having the database accession numbers of Table I, or nucleotide sequences encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, and SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NOs:23-30,~~

(2) full-length complements of (1), and

(3) fragments of (1) and (2).

5-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Amended) A kit, comprising a package containing: an agent that selectively binds to the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1.

23-88. (Cancelled).